

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 4-7 remain in the application and have been amended hereby. Claim 3 has been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 1 and 3-7 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Claim 1 has been amended in part to clarify that the "external source" is --external to the terminal device--.

Claim 3 has been canceled and its limitations are now recited in claim 1. The limitations have been clarified to follow the preamble, that is, the terminal device communicates with the accounting center by transmitting information to the accounting center and receiving information from the accounting center. The limitation "wherein the accounting processing status is transmitted from the accounting center to the terminal device" has been removed from the amended claims.

Claims 4 and 5 have been amended to replace the recitation "insufficient" with --below a minimum--.

Claim 6 has been amended to remove the limitation "having a third memory".

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted amended claims 1 and 4-7 are clear and definite in their recitation of the present

invention and meet all requirements of 35 USC 112.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 1, 4, and 6 under 35 USC 102(e), as being anticipated by Boccon-Gibod et al. and Kleiman '945, and of the rejection of claims 1, 4, and 6 under 35 USC 103(a), as being unpatentable over Russo.

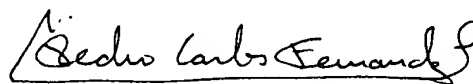
Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's finding of Allowable Subject Matter in claims 3, 5, and 7, as stated in the Office Action at paragraph 13.

As stated above the imitations of claim 3 have been incorporated in claim 1.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claim 1, and the claims depending therefrom, are in condition of allowance.

An early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
COOPER & DUNHAM, LLP

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jay H. Maioli", is written over a horizontal line. A long, thin diagonal line extends from the right side of the signature towards the upper right corner of the page.

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE
IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1 and 4-7 by rewriting same to read as follows and cancel claim 3 without prejudice or disclaimer.

--1. (Twice Amended) A terminal device for communicating with an accounting center, comprising:

a first memory for storing accounting point information;

a second memory for storing information received from an external source external to the terminal device; [and]

a controller for updating the accounting point information stored in the first memory and for updating attributes of the received information when the received information is stored in the second memory,

wherein when the received information is stored into the second memory the controller [modifies] reduces the accounting point information stored in the first memory and updates the attributes of the received information from an unavailable state to an available state; and

a second controller for transmitting the accounting point information stored in the first memory to the accounting center and for setting the accounting point information to an initial value based on an accounting processing status, received by the terminal

device from the accounting center, corresponding to the accounting point information.

--4. (Twice Amended) The terminal device as claimed in claim 1, wherein when the accounting point information stored in the first memory is [insufficient] below a minimum for the received information stored in the second memory, the controller performs control so that the attributes of the received information are held in the unavailable state to a user.

--5. (Twice Amended) The terminal device as claimed in claim [3] 1, wherein when the accounting point information stored in the first memory is [insufficient] below a minimum for the received information stored in the second memory, the second controller transmits the accounting point information stored in the first memory to the accounting center and sets the accounting point information stored in the first memory at [an] the initial value based on the status of accounting processing corresponding to the accounting point information.

--6. (Twice Amended) The terminal device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a communicator for communicating with an external device [having a third memory],

wherein the controller receives external device information from the external device connected via the communicator and updates the accounting point information stored in the first memory in accordance with the received external device information and updates the attributes of the received information.

--7. (Twice Amended) The terminal device as claimed in claim [3] 1, further comprising a third controller for making a request for purchasing the accounting point information to the accounting center and updating the accounting point information stored in the first memory based on [an] the accounting processing status corresponding to the accounting point information received from the accounting center.--